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Remarks

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-20 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 9, 13 and 15 being independent. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended and Claims 15-20 have been added herein.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication in the Advisory Action dated May 9, 2003, that dependent Claims 2 and 10 remain objected to, but were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. Solely to expedite allowance of the application, independent Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the features of dependent Claims 2 and 10, respectively. In addition, independent Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of dependent Claim 10. Thus, independent Claims 1, 9 and 13 are believed to be allowable. Dependent Claims 3-8, 11, 12 and 14 are also believed to be allowable due to their dependency on the foregoing independent claims and in their own right. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 16-20 have been added to afford Applicant an increased scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure.

Favorable and early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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